VISIT…

# Pronouns / Simple Sentences

## Pronouns

| | Singluar | | Plural | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st Person | நான் | I | நாம் | we (listener included) |
| | | | நாங்கள் | we (listener not included) |
| 2nd Person | நீ | you | நீங்கள் | you |
| | நீங்கள் | you (with respect) | | |
| 3rd Person | அவன் | he | அவர்கள் | they |
| | அவள் | she | | |
| | அவர் | he/she (respect) | | |
| | அது | it | அவை | they ("those things") |

## Singular / Plural

Singular means that a word refers to only 1 thing. Plural means that a word refers to more than 1 thing.

## 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Person

First person speech means the person speaking is talking about him/herself as an individual ("I...") or in a group ("we..."). In Thamil, நாம் is used when the person who is being spoken to is included in the group. ("Are we there yet?") நாங்கள் is used when the person who is being spoken to is not included. ("We saw a bear! You missed it.")

Second person speech means that the person being spoken to is being spoken about. ("Who are you?") நீங்கள் is used for a group of people, as well as for just one person who receives respect.

Third person speech means that the speaker is talking with someone about someone else. ("He is good." "They are smart.") அவர் is used when talking about a person who receives respect. அது refers to anything that is not a person (place, thing, idea). அவை is used to refer to more than 1 place, thing, or idea, such as 9 dogs or 5 tables.

## Simple Sentences

There is no way to translate "is" in Thamil, and there is no translation for "is" in making simple sentences. So if you want to make a simple, informative statement, just put the two words together without a verb. Ex:

- அவர் காவல்காரன் = "He is a police officer."

Also, you can use numbers to describe what is being referred to. There is a word for "a"/"an", which is ஒரு, which is used. Ex:

- அவர்கள் ஐந்து ஆசிரியர்கள் = "They are 5 teachers."
- நான் ஒரு பையன் = "I am a boy."

## Technicalities

If you want to say something like "It is red", you will have to wait until you get to Adjectives & Adverbs. In English, the words "is" and "are" are called linking verbs. A linking verb restates the subject (அவர்) with the predicate noun (காவல்காரன்). In other words, அவர் = காவல்காரன். The word "red" in "It is red" is a predicate adjective, and is said differently in Thamil.

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# Negatives / Questions

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## Negatives

A negative sentence is a sentence where you say "no" or "not". The word for "no" is இல்லை.

*Simple Sentence - Negative*

To make a simple sentence negative (reverse the meaning), add இல்லை to the end of the sentence

Ex:

- அவர் காவல்காரன் இல்லை = "He is not a police officer."
- அவர்கள் ஐந்து ஆசிரியர்கள் இல்லை = "They are not 5 teachers."
- நான் ஒரு பையன் இல்லை = "I am not a boy."

## Questions

*Forming Questions*

To turn a sentence into a question, add −ஆ to the end of the sentence.

Ex:

- அவர் காவல்காரனா = "Is he a police officer?"
- அவர்கள் ஐந்து ஆசிரியர்களா = "Are they 5 teachers?"
- நான் ஒரு பையனா = "Am I a boy?"

For rules on adding suffixes, go here

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# Verb Roots / Verb Suffixes

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## Verb Roots

A verb root is just that -- the basic form of a verb to which suffixes are added. By adding suffixes, you can create all the different tenses in Thamil.

Verbs roots, by themselves, can be used as commands. A command is a statement requesting something to be done.

## Weak / Strong Verbs

Thamil verbs have been organized into 7 classes based on the changes made when adding suffixes. Weak verbs refer to verbs in classes 1-4. Strong verbs refer to verbs in classes 6-7. There are no more than 10 or so verbsin class 5, so we'll leave it alone.

## *Verb Suffixes*

When verbs show action in a sentence, a suffix is added to the verbs that match up with the subject of the sentence. Each pronoun is associated with a verb suffix. This means that if a pronoun appears in a sentence, then its corresponding verb suffix is adding to the end of the verb. (Verb suffixes are also known as PGN or PNG suffixes.) The table below shows pronouns and the corresponding verb suffixes:

<table>
<tr><th></th><th colspan="2">Singluar</th><th colspan="2">Plural</th></tr>
<tr><th></th><th>Pronoun</th><th>Verb Suffix</th><th>Pronoun</th><th>Verb Suffix</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">1st Person</td><td rowspan="2">நான்</td><td rowspan="2">–ஏன்</td><td>நாம்</td><td>–ஓம்</td></tr>
<tr><td>நாங்கள்</td><td>–ஓம்</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">2nd Person</td><td>நீ</td><td>–ஆய்</td><td rowspan="2">நீங்கள்</td><td rowspan="2">–ஈர்கள்</td></tr>
<tr><td>நீங்கள்</td><td>–ஈர்கள்</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">3rd Person</td><td>அவன்</td><td>–ஆன்</td><td rowspan="3">அவர்கள்</td><td rowspan="3">–ஆர்கள்</td></tr>
<tr><td>அவள்</td><td>–ஆள்</td></tr>
<tr><td>அவர்</td><td>–ஆர்</td></tr>
<tr><td>அது</td><td>–அது (past/present tense)<br>–உம் (future tense)</td><td>அவை</td><td>N/A* (past/present tense)<br>–உம் (future tense)</td></tr>
</table>

*Present tense verbs used with அவை are made differently. Since அது and அவை present quite a few excpetions, verbs with அது, அவை

will be taught later.

If the subject of the sentence isn't a pronoun, then the subject will have a related pronoun. Then the verb suffix corresponding to the related prnoun is added to the verb. Ex:

- verb suffix for கமலா = ஆள்
- verb suffix for அவள் = ஆள்
- verb suffix for மணி = ஆன்
- verb suffix for அவன் = ஆன்

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| *Some Weak Verbs* | |
|---|---|
| விளையாடு | play |
| தூங்கு | sleep |
| உட்கார் | sit |
| வாங்கு | buy, receive |
| ஓடு | run |

| *Some Strong Verbs* | |
|---|---|
| படி | read |
| கொடு | give |
| பார் | see |
| நினை | think |

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# Verbs - Present Tense

## Present Tense

The present tense refers to a sentence where the action is currently taking place. Examples of present tense sentences are "He runs", "She reads", and "They play".

Turning a verb root into a present tense verb depends on if the verb is a weak or strong verb:

*Present Tense - Weak Verbs*

verb root + கிற் + verb suffix

Ex:

- நாய் தூங்குகிறது = "The dog sleeps."
- அவர்கள் விளையாடுகிறார்கள் = "They play."
- அவன் வாங்குகிறான் = "He buys."

*Present Tense - Strong Verbs*

verb root + க்கிற் + verb suffix

Ex:

- கமலா படிக்கிறாள் = "Kamala reads."
- நீங்கள் பார்க்கிறீர்கள் = "You watch."
- நான் நினைக்கிறேன் = "I think."

# Adding Suffixes

## Adding Suffixes

Adding suffixes is one of the most important things in Thamil grammar. The rules for adding suffixes will be used in a large majority of the remaining lessons. The rules presented below aren't all the rules, but they are the more commonly used ones.

*Suffix Addition Rules*

1. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word ends in an இ, ஈ, ஏ, or ஐ, insert a ய் in between.
2. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word ends in an அ, ஆ, ஊ, ஓ, ஓ, or ஔ, insert a வ் in bewteen.
3. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word ends in an உ sound, and...
    a. If the word is made of 2 short letters, insert a வ் in between.
    b. If the word is not made of 2 short letters, drop the −உ and add the suffix.
4. If the suffix begins in a vowel sound and the word is made of 2 short letters, with the 2nd letter being a consonant, then double the 2nd letter and add the ending.

- Otherwise, join the word and suffix as they are.

So far, we've come across 2 instances of adding suffixes. The first time was forming a question. Not coincidentally, each sentence ended in a consonant, so the last rule was used. Then came present tense verbs, where a verb suffix was added to "verb root + கிற்/க்கிற்". Since கிற் and க்கிற் both end in a consonant, the last rule was used again.

These rules for adding suffixes will always apply unless otherwise specified.

## Compound Subjects

Now let's try examples using the ending for compound subjects.

*Compound Subjects*

For each member of a compound subject, the suffix −உம் is added to each word.

Since compound subjects refer to more than 1 person or thing, the subject thus becomes plural.

## Suffix Examples:

1. தம்பியும் தங்கையும் கொடுக்கிறார்கள் = "Younger brother and younger sister give."
    - தம்பி −ய் −உம் = தம்பியும்
    - தங்கை −ய் −உம் = தங்கையும்
2. அம்மாவும் நானும் உட்கார்கிறோம் = "Mother and I sit."
    - அம்மா −வ் −உம் = அம்மாவும்
    - நான் −உம் = நானும்
3. 
    a. நானும் மாடும் ஓடுகிறோம் = "The bull and I run."
        - நான் −உம் = நானும்
        - மாடு −உம் = மாடும்
    b. நீயும் பசுவும் பார்க்கிறீர்கள் = "You and the cow see."
        - நீ −ய் −உம் = நீயும்
        - பசு −வ் −உம் = பசுவும்
4. ஆணும் பெண்ணும் உட்கார்கிறார்கள் = "The male and the female sit."
    - ஆண் −உம் = ஆணும்
    - பெண் −உம் = பெண்ணும்

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# Verbs - Future Tense

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## Future Tense

Once you have a handle on which verbs are strong and which verbs are weak, putting verbs into the future tense shouldn't be too hard.

| *Future Tense - Weak Verbs* |
| --- |
| For pronouns (other than அது/அவை), verb root + வ் + verb suffix |

Ex:

- நீங்கள் ஓடுவீர்கள் = "You will run."
- அவன் தூங்குவான் = "He will sleep."
- அவர்கள் பேசுவார்களா? = "Will they speak?"
- நாய் நாளைக்கு உட்காரும் = "The dog will sit tomorrow."

| *Future Tense - Strong Verbs* |
| --- |
| For pronouns (other than அது/அவை), verb root + ப்ப் + verb suffix |

Ex:

- நீ கொடுப்பாயா? = "Will you give?"
- அவை குடிக்கும் = "They will drink."
- நீங்கள் எங்கே வசிப்பீர்கள்? = "Where will you live?"
- நாங்கள் சமைப்போம் = "We will cook."

## *More Verbs*

| *More Weak Verbs* | |
| --- | --- |
| பேசு | talk |
| உண், சாப்பிடு | eat |
| விரும்பு | like |
| எழுது | write |

| More Strong Verbs | |
|---|---|
| நட | walk |
| குடி | drink |
| சமை | cook |
| வசி | live |
| இரு | be |

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# "All" / Listing Subjects / "Or"

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## "All"

For the English word "all", there are two words. One word is used for people, and one word is used for non-people things.

| "All" | |
|---|---|
| எல்லோரும் | everyone |
| எல்லாம் | everything |

To translate the word "all" when it is used as an adjective in English, insert one of the two words above after the things/people it describes. Ex:

- அந்த மாடுகள் எல்லாம் தூங்கும் = "All of those cattle will sleep."
- குழந்தைகள் எல்லோரும் இன்று விளையாடுவார்கள் = "All of the kids will play today."

## Listing Subjects

When the subject of a sentence is a compound subject, 2 things or people are referred to. To refer to many things at the same time, you put the words in a list.

*Forming A List*

1. Separate each item with a comma, then place "எல்லோரும்"/"எல்லாம்" at the end.
2. Separate each item with a comma, then insert "மற்றும்" before the last word.

## *Other Meanings Of –உம்*

The suffix –உம் can also be used to mean "even" or "also". Ex:

- அவர்களும் தமிழ் படிக்கிறார்களா? = "Do they too read Thamil?"
- அந்த சின்ன பெண்ணும் படிக்கிறாள் = "Even that litte girl reads."

## *"Or"*

To use the word "or" in the subject of the sentence is easy. To do that, just insert the word "அல்லது" between the two words. Ex:

- சந்திரன் அல்லது கோபால் சமைப்பான் = "Chanthiran or Gopal will cook."

It is probably more proper to use "அல்லது" in a compound sentence, especially if the 2 subjects take differently verb suffixes. Ex:

- அவள் நடப்பாள், அல்லது அவன் நடப்பான். = "She will walk, or he will walk."

"அல்லது" can also be used with verbs. Ex:

- அவர்கள் நடப்பார்கள் அல்லது ஓடுவார்கள் = "They will walk or run."

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# *Ordinal Numbers / Dates*

## Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers are used to describe something's position relative to others. In other words, these are an object's rankings or placings.

| Ordinal Numbers |
| --- |
| To turn a number into an ordinal number, add the ending –ஆவது. |

The only exception is the ordinal number for 1, which is முதலாவது. Here are the first 10 ordinal numbers:

| Ordinal Numbers 1-10 | |
| --- | --- |
| முதலாவது | first |
| இரண்டாவது | second |
| மூன்றாவது | third |
| நான்காவது | fourth |
| ஐந்தாவது | fifth |
| ஆறாவது | sixth |
| ஏழாவது | seventh |
| எட்டாவது | eighth |
| ஒன்பதாவது | ninth |
| பத்தாவது | tenth |

. = irregular

## Dates

The only exception to using ordinal numbers, as they are, is when naming dates such as "February 29th" or "August 13th".

*Naming A Date*

When naming a date, the suffix "−ஆம்" is added to the number. The word "தேதி" follows the number.

The word தேதி means "date". Click learn about Thamil months and seasons. Some examples of dates (using English months):

- பெபிரூவரி இருபத்தொன்பதாம் தேதி = "February 29th"
- ஆகசட் பதிமூன்றாம் தேதி = "August 13th"

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# That, This, And Question Words

## That, This, And Question Words

In Thamil, asking questions or pointing out objects up close ("this"/ "these") or objects far away ("that"/ "those") is very simple. In general, the prefix "அ−" points out objects far away, the prefix "இ−" points out objects up close, and the prefix "எ−" asks "which?" or "what?" about the object.

There are a few groups of words in Thamil that differ only by their prefixes and are related in this way. In addition, the similarity between words in one group is that they refer to the same thing. The chart below categorizes these words.

| *That* | | *This* | | *What/which* | | *Relationship* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| அந்த | that | இந்த | this | எந்த | which? | (adjectives) |
| அது | that thing | இது | this thing | எது | which thing? | thing |
| அங்கு | there | இங்கு | here | எங்கு | where? | place |
| அப்பொழுது | then | இப்பொழுது | now | எப்பொழுது | when? | time |
| அப்படி | in that manner | இப்படி | in this manner | எப்படி | how? | manner / method |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| அன்று | that day | இன்று | today | என்று | which day? | day |
| அவ்வளவு | that much | இவ்வளவு | this much | எவ்வளவு | hwo much? | amount |
| அத்தனை | that many | இத்தனை | this many | எத்தனை | how many? | number |
| அவன் | that boy | இவன் | this boy | எவன் | which boy? | boy |
| அவள் | that girl | இவள் | this girl | எவள் | which girl? | girl |
| அவர் | that elder | இவர் | this elder | எவர் | which elder? | elder |
| அவை | those things | இவை | these things | எவை | which things? | things |

## More Question Words

There are a few more words that ask a question, but these words have no "அ−/இ−" equivalents.

| Question Words | |
|---|---|
| யார் | who? |
| என்ன | what? |
| ஏன் | why? |
| எத்தனையாவது | which rank? |

When using the question word யார், the respect/plural verb suffix (−ஆர்கள்) must be used with the verb. Ex:

- யார் போகிறார்கள்? = "Who goes?"

## Sentence Order

The words in the big chart above, whose relationship is either "time", "manner", or "day" are called adverbs. It is important to distiguinsh adverbs

because the placement of words in a Thamil sentence is different from English.

*Thamil Sentence Word Order*

1. subject
2. "other words"
3. adverbs
4. verb

To learn about using the verb இரு with adverbs for making sentences like "It is red" or "He is here", go to the next lesson, Adjectives / Adverbs.

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# Adjectives / Adverbs

## Adjective / Adverb Relationships

Some nouns can take one ending to become an adjective or another ending to become an adverb. Not all nouns can form an adverb and an adjective. Some form neither of the two. The rules aren't precise here.

Like in English, adjectives precede the nouns which they describe, regardless of what place in the sentence word order the word falls.

*Ending For Adjectives*

Adjectives formed from a noun usually end in −ஆன.

*Ending For Adverbs*

Adverbs formed from a noun usually end in −ஆக.

| *Adjective* | | *Adverb* | | *Noun* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| அழகான | beautiful | அழகாக | beautifully | அழகு | beauty |
| மெலிதான | soft | மெலிதாக | softly | மெலிது | softness |
| நீலமான | blue | நீலமாக | blue-ly | நீலம் | blueness |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| பச்சையான | green | பச்சையாக | green-ly | பச்சை | green-ness |
| உப்பான | salty | உப்பாக | saltily | உப்பு | salt, saltiness |

## Simple Sentences Revisited / இரு

Why would there be a need to make words like "green-ly" and "blueness"? Well, to start with, நீலம் is the word for blue. In Thamil, colors are nouns, not adjectives.

In simple sentences in which something is being described by an adjective, adverbs are used instead of the adjectives. To make these sentences:

1. Convert the adjective into an adverb.
2. Then use the verb இரு as the word for "is". (Don't forget to put it into the correct tense and to add the correct verb suffix!)
3. Remember to put the words in the correct order.

That's it! (Phew!)

## Examples

- அது பச்சையாக இருக்கிறது = "It is green."
- அது சிவப்பாக இருக்கிறது = "It is red."
- நானும் கோமதியும் வேகமாக ஓடுவோம் = "Gomathi and I will run fast."
- அவர்கள் சரியாக பேசுகிறார்கள் = "They speak correctly."
- அந்த கேள்வி மிக எளிமையாக இருக்கிறது = "That question is very easy."

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# Professions / Family Words

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## Family Words

There are more words in Thamil for family members, since the words are more specific about the relationship bewteen two family memebers. The number of words for family members in Thamil is perhaps a reflection that the extended family is an important part of Thamil society.

| *Family Words* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Female* | | *Male* | |
| அம்மா | mother | அப்பா | father |
| அக்கா | older sister | அண்ணா | older brother |
| தங்கை | younger sister | தம்பி | younger brother |
| அத்தை | aunt | மாமா | uncle |
| சித்தி | aunt | சித்தப்பா | uncle |
| பெரியம்மா | aunt | பெரியப்பா | uncle |
| பேத்தி | granddaughter | பேரன் | grandson |
| மருமகள் | niece / daughter-in-law | மருமகன் | nephew / son-in-law |

## *Professions*

People who have a specific profession can be called by their profession. Some words are like compound words, with the name of the profession included.

| *Professions* | | |
|---|---|---|
| காவல்காரன் | policeman | காவல் = police |
| காவல்காரி | policewoman | |
| மருத்துவர் | doctor | மருந்து = medicine |

## *Plural Nouns*

## Plural Noun Suffix Addition

The suffix for turning a singular noun into a plural noun is கள். Since கள் does not begin with a vowel, none of the special previously learned rules for adding suffixes apply. In addition, words that end in certain letters change while becoming plural.

*Forming Plural Nouns*

- If the word ends in −ம், drop the −ம் and add −ங்கள்
- If the word is one syllable...
  - and ends in a long vowel sound, add க்கள்
  - has a short vowel sound and ends in..
    - −ல், drop the −ல் and add ற்கள்
    - −ள், drop the −ள் and add ட்கள்
- For all other nouns, add −கள்

This may seem like a lot, but it isn't. Most nouns fall into the last category, which is simple. One syllable words that end in a vowel sound are actually one-letter words. Words like this are பூ, ஈ, தீ, but there aren't too many. There also aren't many short vowel sound, one-syllable words ending in ல் or ள், but some are பல் and கல்.

So although all of the rules may come in handy, it is typical to use the first rule and the last rule the most.

## Examples

- மரம் + −கள் = மரங்கள்
- பழம் + −கள் = பழங்கள்
- ஈ + −கள் = ஈக்கள்
- பூ + −கள் = பூக்கள்
- கல் + −கள் = கற்கள்

- பந்து + −கள் = பந்துகள்
- நூல் + −கள் = நூல்கள்
- முள் + −கள் = முட்கள்

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# Commands

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## Commands

A command is a statement requesting somthing to be done. Examples of a command are "Read." and "Write." Since comands are always directed towards someone, it is optional to include the person's name (or a pronoun) before the command.

## Respect / Non-respect

In Thamil, commands have 2 forms. The first form (which is just the verb root) is the non-respect form. This form is given to people of the same age or people younger. As previously said, a verb root by itself can be used as a command without respect. The other form of commands are those given with respect.

*Commands With Respect*

verb root + உங்கள்

Forming commands with respect uses the usual rules for adding suffixes.

## Examples

- உட்கார் = "Sit."
- பாருங்கள் = "Look."
- நீ படி = "You read."
- நீங்கள் எழுதுங்கள் = "You write."
- கார்த்திக், அங்கு பேசு = "Karthik, speak there."

- அப்பா, நீங்கள் சமையுங்கள் = "Father, you cook."

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# Negative Commands

## Non-respect

Negative commands have different endings depending on whether the person gets respect, and whether the verb is weak or strong.

*Negative Commands (non-respect)*

- For weak verbs: verb root + −ஆதே
- For strong verbs: verb root + க்க் + −ஆதே

Ex:

- கத்தாதே = "Don't yell."
- நீங்கள் பாடாதீர்கள் = "You don't sing."
- தங்கை, பேசாதே = "Little sister, don't talk."

## Respect

*Negative Commands (respect)*

- For weak verbs: verb root + −ஆதீர்கள்
- For strong verbs: verb root + க்க் + −ஆதீர்கள்

Ex:

- அடிக்காதே = "Don't hit."
- உதைக்காதீர்கள் = "Don't kick."
- குடிக்காதே = "Don't drink."

## More Verbs

| More Weak Verbs | |
|---|---|
| ஓட்டு | drive |
| கத்து | yell |
| பாடு | sing |
| ஆடு | dance |
| எழுது | write |

| More Strong Verbs | |
|---|---|
| குளி | bathe |
| அடி | hit |
| உதை | kick |
| சந்தி | meet |
| காத்திரு | wait |

## Irregular Verbs - வா/போ

### Being Irregular

The words வா ("come") and போ are called irregular because they do not follow all of our previously learned rules exactly. The easiest way to show which rules these verbs follow is through a chart.

| Irregular Verbs | | |
|---|---|---|
| Verb Form | Come | Go |
| verb root | வா | போ |
| present tense | வரு + கிற் + verb suffix | போ + கிற் + verb suffix |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| future tense | வரு + வ் + verb suffix | போ + வ் + verb suffix |
| command (non-resp.) | வா | போ |
| command (resp.) | வாருங்கள் | போங்கள் |
| neg. command (non-resp.) | வராதே | போகாதே |
| neg. command (resp.) | வராதீர்கள் | போகாதீர்கள் |

Take a close look at the commands with respect, since they are much different from all the other verb forms. These aren't the only irregular verbs, but forunately, there are only a few others.

## Examples

- அவன் நாளைக்கு அங்கு போவான் = "He will go there tomorrow."
- நான் வருகிறேன் = "I come."
- போகாதீர்கள் = "Do not go."

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# Thamil Cases

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## Thamil Cases

Certain special suffixes in Thamil are known as case suffixes. There are about 7 case suffixes, and they are only added to nouns. Each has a different meaning. Examples of the meanings of some case suffixes include "at"/"in", "for"/"to", and "from". In a setence, words that have case suffixes usually appear after the noun but before the adverb.

## Case Suffixes

Adding case suffixes is the second instance where the word changes before a suffix is added. The first was when making plural nouns.

### Adding Case Suffixes

- If the word ends in −டு or −று:

- add the case suffix using the basic set of suffix addtion rules if:
  - the word is made of two short letters
  - the final –டு or –று is preceded by a consonant
- change –டு to ட்ட் or –று to ற்ற் and add the case suffix for any other word

- If the word ends in –ம்:

  drop the –ம், add த்த், and add the case suffix

Remember that a consonant is a letter that does not have a vowel sound (e.g. க், ங், ச், etc.).

The pronouns change uniquely before adding suffix:

| *Case Suffixes - Word Changes* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Word* | *Change Before Adding Case Suffix* | *Word* | *Change Before Adding Case Suffix* |
| நான் | என்– | நாம் | நம்– |
| | | நாங்கள் | எங்கள்– |
| நீ | உன்– | நீங்கள் | உங்கள்– |
| நீங்கள் | உங்கள்– | | |
| அவன் | அவன்– | அவர்கள் | அவர்கள்– |
| அவள் | அவள்– | | |
| அவர் | அவர்– | | |
| அது | அத்–/அதன்– | அவை | அவற்று– |
| *Word* | | *Change Before Adding Case Suffix* | |
| எல்லாம் | | எல்லாவற்ற்– | |

அது changes very irregularly when adding case suffixes to it.

See the next lesson about direct objects to see examples of case suffix rules.

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# Accusative Case

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A direct object is a word that receives action. Another way to think about a direct object is to find the verb of the sentence, and then ask the question "Whom or what received the action of the verb?"

In the sentence "I drink water", the word "drink" indicates the action of the sentence. The action is drinking. To find the direct object, ask the question "What is being drunk?" The answer is "water". Therefore, "water" is the direct object of the sentence.

*Direct Objects*

The direct objects of a sentence add −ஐ to the end of the word.

It is important to remember that the suffix for direct objects is a case suffix. Therefore, words that end in −ு, −று, and −ம் add case suffixes according to different rules than do all other nouns.

Ex:

- நான் பழத்தை சாப்பிடுகிறேன். = "I eat fruit."
- அவன் மரத்தை வெட்டுவானா? = "Will he cut the tree?"

(In the second example, the word "cut" is the verb, which means it is the action. To find the direct object, ask "Whom/What is being cut?" Here, it is the tree, which means it is the direct object.)

## Multiple Suffixes

Already, we have seen one difference between case suffixes and other ("non-case") suffixes, which is that words undergo changes before adding case suffixes. As we will see in later lessons, there is another difference between these 2 categories of suffixes:

*Adding Multiple Suffixes To A Word*

When adding more than one suffix to a word, suffixes are given this precedence when added:

1. Plural suffix
2. Case suffix
3. Other suffixes

Ex:

- நாங்கள் கரண்டியையும் கத்தியையும் பார்க்கிறோம் = "We see the spoon and the knife."
- அவன் மரங்களை பார்ப்பானா? = "Will he see the trees?"

In the first example, the direct object is a compound, since two things are being seen. We need to add the case suffix −ஐ for both words since they are direct objects, and we also need to add the non-case suffix −உம் to both words since they are a part of a compound phrase. According to the rule, −ஐ is added first, and then −உம் is added.

## Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns refer to things that are not precisely known. The characteristics that distinguish and indefinite pronoun from other words is very subtle. (Thus, at first, understanding indefinite pronouns may be tricky and may require a little extra effort.) Examples of English indefinite pronouns are: "anyone", "anything", "everybody", "something", "other", "all", "some".

Two words for "all" were given in Lesson 7. The context in which எல்லோரும் and எல்லாம் were used in Lesson 7 was to end a plural word or list of several people or several things. The two words were being used as adjectives. Here, the words will be used as nouns to refer to "all people" or "all things".

Let us take 2 similar sentences:

- Can Arasu answer the question?

- Can anyone answer the question?

In the first sentence, we are very sure who we are talking about -- Arasu. In the second sentence, we are not necessarily talking about Arasu. We are only talking about the person or group of people who can answer the question. However, we are unsure which people belong to that group. The uncertainty in the group to which "anyone" refers makes "anyone" an indefinite pronoun.

Just as indefinite pronouns can be formed in English from question words ("whomever", "whatever"), indefinite pronouns are formed in Thamil from question words. In particular, the question words that are primarily used are எது, எங்கு, எப்பொழுது, எப்படி, என்று, எவ்வளவு, எத்தனை, யார், என்ன.

For these question words, the following rules apply:

*Indefinite Pronoun - "every-"*

Add the suffix −உம் to a question word to form a word with all-inclusive representation.

Ex:

- நீங்கள் எங்கும் போவீர்கள் = "You will go everywhere"

*Indefinite Pronoun - "some-"*

Add the suffix −ஓ to a question word to form a word which reflects uncertainty in the speaker and any observers.

Ex:

- அது எதையோ சாப்பிடுகிறது = "It eats something"

*Indefinite Pronoun - "any-" / "some-"*

Add the suffix −ஆவது to a question word to form a word which reflects uncertainty on the part of the speaker.

Ex:

- யாராவது பேசுகிறார்களா? = "Is anyone speaking?"

## Final Note On Indefinite Pronouns

In particular, the tricky part is distinguishing in which circumstances −ஆவது or −ஓ should be used. A likely pitfall might be to construct a thought in English and then attempt to translate this in Thamil. As you can see, some words in English have multiple, distinct meanings. Furthermore, words like "whomever", "whatever", etc. don't quite have a translation in Thamil, since their meaning in the context in which they are used is quite vague anyway. Once one begins to construct thoughts directly in Thamil, the proper usage of the words will come more naturally. The more one speaks, Thamil, and corrects his/her mistakes in Thamil, the easier this subject will become.

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# Verb Classes

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Thus far, we have been using the terms "weak verb" and "strong verb". This has proved sufficient for using present tense and future tense. But it is only half of the story.

Thamil verbs have been divided up into 7 verb classes. What is remarkable about Thamil is that all verbs belong to 1 of the 7 verb classes. The verbs of any particular class all follow the same pattern when it comes to making the past, present, and future tenses. Only relatively few words are irregular. (We have already come across 2 -- வா and போ.) Some exceptions exist to the general patterns of these verb classes, but such exceptions are minimal.

What we thought of as weak verbs is a generalization of Classes 1-4. Strong verbs are from Classes 6 and 7. Class 5 contains irregulars. It will not be discussed properly within the main lessons, but it can be found at Appendix A. Since most of the verbs that belong to a class have common characteristics, it will be helpful to memorize one verb from each class as a reference for other verbs in that class.

| Class | General Pattern | Example |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1-syllable, short vowel, ends in –ய், –ள், –ல் | (see below) |
| 1a | ends in –ய் | செய் |
| 1b | ends in –ள் | ஆள் |
| 1c | ends in –ல் | செல் |
| 2 | 2 syllables, ends in –ய், –ர், –ழ், –இ, –ஐ | வளர் |
| 3 | ends in –உ (exception –டு, –று -- see below) | பேசு |
| 4 | ends in –டு, –று | போடு |
| 5 | Irregular verbs | ~ |
| 6 | combination of Class 2 and Class 4 patterns | கொடு |
| 7 | ends in –அ | நட |

## *Exceptions And Irregulars*

The ultimate determiner to which class a verb belongs is not the verb root, but the way it forms past and present/future tenses. (It will become clearer after the next lesson on the Past Tense.) This explains why அழு is a Class 1a verb and சேர் is a Class 2 verb.

Note that there are probably no more than 10 or so verbs in Class 5. However, (even fewer) irregular verbs may appear in other classes. In particular, remember that வா and போ are irregular verbs. However, வா is a Class 2 verb, but போ fits into Class 3. Also, இரு is a Class 7 verb.

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# *Verbs - Past Tense*

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The following chart shows how to put verbs into the past tense, based on their verb class.

From this lesson forward, an attempt will be made to include the verb class number as a superscript to the verb root.

| *Class* | *Past Tense* |
|---|---|
| 1a | add த் + verb suffix |
| 1b | drop the −ள், then add ண்ட் + verb suffix |
| 1c | drop the −ல், then add ன்ற் + verb suffix |
| 2 | add ந்த் + verb suffix |
| 3 | add இன் + verb suffix |
| 4 | drop the −உ, double the last letter, and add the verb suffix |
| 5 | ~ |
| 6 | add த்த் + verb suffix |
| 7 | add ந்த் + verb suffix |

For future reference, we will need define the past tense stem as the part of the past tense verb before the verb suffix. So for the verbs தடு[6] and காத்திரு[7], the past tense stems would be தடத்த்− and காத்திருந்த்−.

## *Examples*

1. 
   a. நான் செய்தேன் = "I did"
   b. அவர்கள் ஆண்டார்கள் = "They ruled"
   c. நாங்கள் சென்றோம் = "We went"
2. நீ வளர்ந்தாய் = "You grew"
3. அவள் பேசினாள் = "She spoke"
4. நீங்கள் போட்டீர்கள் = "You put"
5. (see below)

6. நாம் கொடுத்தோம் = "We gave"
7. அது நடந்தது = "It walked"

## Examples Of Irregular Verbs

| Verb | Past Tense | Present Tense | Future Tense |
|---|---|---|---|
| நில்[5] | நின்றார்கள் | நிற்கிறார்கள் | நிற்பார்கள் |
| வில்[5] | விற்றான் | விற்கிறான் | விற்பான் |
| கேள்[5] | கேட்டாள் | கேட்கிறாள் | கேட்பாள் |
| வா[2] | வந்தார்கள் | வருகிறார்கள் | வருவார்கள் |
| தா[2] | தந்தேன் | தருகிறேன் | தருவேன் |
| சொல்[3] | சொன்னேன் | சொல்கிறேன் | சொல்வேன் |
| பண்ணு[3] | பண்ணினோம் | பண்ணுகிறோம் | பண்ணுவோம் |
| போ[3] | போனார் | போகிறார் | போவார் |

## Dative Case

The dative case is added to nouns to mean "to", "for", or "for the sake of".

*Dative Case*

- If the word ends in −இ, −ஈ, −ஐ, or −ஆய், add −க்கு
- All other words add the suffix −உக்கு.

Again, remember that suffix rules for Thamil cases, as well as our basic set of suffix rules, should be used in conjunction with the dative case suffix, if they are applicable. In general, non-case-suffixes (−ஆ, −உம், etc.) only follow the basic set of suffix addition rules. Case suffixes (−ஐ,

−க்கு/−உக்கு, etc.) are added by first using case suffix rules, if they apply, before using the basic suffix rules.

### Irregulars

Only a handful of words, which are all pronouns, add the dative case slightly differently.

| Word | Dative Case |
|---|---|
| நான் | எனக்கு |
| நீ | உனக்கு |
| அது | அதற்கு |
| நாம் | நமக்கு |

### Examples

- நீங்கள் கடைக்கு போகிறீர்களா? = "Are you going to the store?"
- மேகலா உனக்கு சாப்பாட்டை வாங்கினாள் = "Mekalaa bought the candy for you"
- நான் வீட்டுக்கு போவேன் = "I will go home"
- மாடு ஆற்றுக்கு போகிறது = "A bull goes to the river"
- மாணவர்கள் தினமும் வகுப்புக்கு படிப்பார்கள் = "Students read for class daily"
- குழந்தைகள் பூங்காவுக்கு போவார்காள் = "Children will go to the park"

---

## Sociative Case

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The sociative case is used to show accompaniment in action. It's meaning generally corresponds to the word "with".

*Sociative Case*

The sociative case is formed by adding the suffixes –உடன் or –ஓடு.

## Examples

- நூலகத்துக்கு அவனுடன் போ = "Go to the library with him."
- நீ எங்களுடன் நாடகத்துக்கு வருவாயா? = "Will you come to the play with us?"
- நாங்கள் துணிகளுடன் செருப்புகளை வாங்குகிறோம் = "We buy the shoes with the clothes."

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# Habitual Tense

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The habitual tense refers to verbs that show action occurring repeatedly. The action can occur daily, weekly, or repeatedly over any other period of time.

The habitual tense would be used to say statements like "I wake up at 5:00 daily". Sometimes, the habitual tense is used based on the context of the statement. If someone asks, "Do you want tea?" and you reply, "I don't drink tea," the habitual tense would be used to indicate that you have made it a habit not to drink tea.

*Habitual Tense*

A verb is put into the habitual tense by putting it into the future tense.

## Examples

- நான் தினமும் ஐந்து மணிக்கு எழுந்திருப்பேன் = "I wake up at 5:00 daily"
- நீ தேநீர் குடிப்பாயா? = "Do you drink tea?"
- நாங்கள் கால்பந்து தினமும் விளையாடுவோம் = "We play football everyday."

# Locative / Ablative Case

## Locative Case

The locative case is added to nouns to mean "in", "at", or "on".

| Locative Case |
| --- |
| The locative case is formed by adding the suffix –இல் |

Although the locative case can be translated into English using different words ("in", "at", "on") depending on the context, there is some commonality in each word's meaning. The commonality seems to be that the English words indicate a proximity to the location in reference.

The locative case, along with the dative case, is one of the most often used cases.

### –இடம்

The case suffix –இடம் is affiliated with the locative case, but it takes on only a few specific meanings that are all different. Some meanings resemble the locative case, while sometimes it is used the way the dative case is. We will postpone it for later.

## Ablative Case

The ablative case means "from".

| Ablative Case |
| --- |
| The ablative case is formed by adding the suffix –இலிருந்து |

The exceptions to this are the words அங்கு, இங்கு, and எங்கு:

| Word | Ablative Case |
| --- | --- |
| அங்கு | அங்கிருந்து |

| | |
|---|---|
| இங்கு | இங்கிருந்து |
| எங்கு | எங்கிருந்து |

### Examples

- பறவை கூட்டிலிருந்து பறக்கிறது = "The bird flies from the nest"
- கப்பல்கள் கடலில் போகும் = "Ships sail on the sea"
- பூ தோட்டத்தில் வளர்கிறது = "The flower grows in the garden"

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## Possessive / Instrumental Cases

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### Possessive Case

The possessive case is added to nouns to indicate that the noun has ownership or possession of something. It is something like the "--'s" that is added to the end of a word in English for the same purpose.

*Possessive Case*

The possessive case is formed for

- nouns ending in −ம், −டு, or −று by adding the case suffix −இனுடைய
- all other nouns by adding the case suffix −உடைய.

The possessive case may also be formed by adding the suffix −இன். It is equivalent to −உடைய except that it is not typically added to pronouns.

### Instrumental Case

The instrumental case is added to nouns to mean "with the use of", "because of", or "by means of".

*Instrumental Case*

The instrumental case is formed by adding the suffix −ஆல்

## Examples

- அவன் கத்தியால் மாம்பழத்தினுடைய தோலை வெட்டினான் = "He cut the mango's skin with a knife"
- அவளுடைய கதை செய்தித்தாளில் வருமா? = "Will her story appear in the newspaper?"

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# Verbs And Case Forms Of அது,அவை

For many different forms, Thamil verbs are formed irregularly for the inanimate அது, அவை (and nouns that could be replaced by these 2 pronouns). The following is a summary of how அது and அவை are dealt with for verbs and cases.

## Verb Endings

| | Class | Past Tense | Present Tense | Future Tense |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| அது | 1-4 | past tense stem + −அது* | verb + கிற் + −அது | verb + −உம்** |
| | 6-7 | | verb + க்கிற் + −அது | verb + க்க் + −உம் |
| அவை | 1-4 | past tense stem + −அன* | verb + கின்றன | verb + −உம்** |
| | 6-7 | | verb + க்கின்றன | verb + க்க் + −உம் |

* There are 2 extra ways to make the past tense for அது for class 3 verbs, while the past tense for அவை for class 3 verbs is irregular.

** Verbs which are 2 short syllables and end in −உ drop the final −உ before adding −உம்

*Past Tense For அது,அவை Class 3 Verbs*

The past tense of class 3 verbs for அது can also be formed as

- verb + இயது
- verb + இற்று

The past tense of class 3 verbs for அவை is verb + இன

Note: the information in the chart above completes the missing information from Lesson 3 on Verb Roots / Verb Suffixes.

## Cases

From background information about Thamil cases, we saw that அவை changes to அவற்று− before adding cases. But அது changes to one of two possibilites. Sometimes, அது changes to அதன்− before adding the case suffix. Other times, அது just adds the case suffix. And the dative is just அதற்கு

| Case Suffix / Case | அது | அவை |
|---|---|---|
| −ஐ (Accusative) | அதை | அவற்றை |
| −க்கு (Dative) | அதற்கு | அவற்றுக்கு |
| −உடன் (Sociative) | அதனுடன் | அவற்றுடன் |
| −ஓடு (Sociative) | அதோடு | அவற்றோடு |
| −இடம் (Locative) | அதனிடம் | அவற்றிடம் |
| −இல் | அதில் | அவற்றில் |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (Locative) | | |
| –இலிருந்து (Ablative) | அதிலிருந்து | அவற்றிலிருந்து |
| –உடைய (Possessive) | அதனுடைய | அவற்றுடைய |
| –ஆல் (Instrumental) | அதனால் | அவற்றால் |

. = word changes with case suffix

## Verbs Of The Dative Case

Some thoughts, such as "want"/"need", "know", "understand", etc. can be expressed in Thamil only using the dative case and a certain set of verbs. Sentences that use these verbs will be a little different from the sentences we have seen so far. The way the verbs are used will be different, and some verbs have certain peculiarities.

Understanding this type of sentence entails understanding the particulars of each verb. To say the least, this lesson may be challenging and a bit tricky, but hopefully it will seem easier over time.

### The Verbs

| *Positive Verbs* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Past Tense* | | *Present/ Future Tense* | | | |
| ~ | | போதும் | | enough | |
| ~ | | வேண்டும் | | want / need | |
| *Past Tense* | | *Present Tense* | | *Future Tense* | |
| பிடித்தது | liked | பிடிக்கிறது | like | பிடிக்கும் | will like |
| முடிந்தது | was able | முடிகிறது | is/ am/ are able | முடியும் | will be able |
| தெரிந்தது | knew | தெரிகிறது | know | தெரியும் | will know |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| புரிந்தது | understood | புரிகிறது | understand | புரியும் | will understand |
| கிடைத்து/ கிடைத்தன | received | கிடைக்கிறது/ கிடைக்கின்றன | receive | கிடைக்கும் | will receive |
| இருந்தது/ இருந்தன | existed | இருக்கிறது/ இருக்கின்றன | exist(s) | இருக்கும் | will exist |

| *Negative Verbs* | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Past Tense* | | *Present/ Future Tense* | | | |
| போதவில்லை | was not enough | போதாது | is not/ will not be enough | | |
| ~ | did not want / need | வேண்டாம் | do not/ will not want / need | | |
| *Past/ Present Tense* | | | *Future Tense* | | |
| பிடிக்கவில்லை | | did/ do not like | பிடிக்காது | will not like | |
| முடியவில்லை | | was/ is not able | முடியாது | will not be able | |
| தெரியவில்லை | | did not/ do not know | தெரியாது | will not know | |
| புரியவில்லை | | did not/ do not understand | புரியாது | will not understand | |
| கிடைக்கவில்லை | | did not/ do not receive | கிடைக்காது | will not receive | |
| இல்லை | | did/ do not exist | இருக்காது | will not exist | |

From the chart of the positive verbs, we can see that the verbs can be put into groups:

- போதும், வேண்டும்
- பிடி, முடி, தெரி, புரி
- கிடை, இரு

This might help in understanding the verbs.

## *Verb Usage And Notes*

### *Verbs With Dative Case*

In dative-case sentences, the subject is put into the dative case and comes at the beginning, while the verb comes at the end of the sentence.

For the positive forms of some verbs, there is a past, present, and future tense. However, the group of verbs பிடி, முடி, தெரி, புரி express ideas that don't change from one moment to the next. For example, we reasonably assume that knowledge or understanding of something is retained indefinitely. The same idea applies to பிடி and முடி. The constant action of these verbs is a common usage of the habitual tense. Remember that the habitual tense is expressed in Thamil by whatever the future tense is. This also applies to the other verbs, but especially போதும் and வேண்டும் and their negatives.

இரு[7], has appeared before in creating a particular simple sentence. There, it means something like the verb "be". Here, when used with the dative case, இரு means something like "be" or "exist" in a literal translation. However, in a practical translation of the entire sentence, இரு might be translated as the verb "have".

### *இரு With The –இடம் Case Suffix*

For sentences where இரு is the verb (and the objects are tangible), the case suffix –இடம் should be used instead of the dative case suffix –உக்கு for the subject

For example, "I have a plate" would be என்னிடம் தட்டு இருக்கிறது. But emotions and ideas are expressed using the usual –உக்கு for the dative case.

### *முடி With The –ஆல் Case Suffix*

For sentences where முடி is the verb, the case suffix –ஆல் should be used

instead of the dative case suffix –உக்கு for the subject

We can't say "was enough", "wanted", or "did not want" with types of sentences found in this lesson yet. If we use the verb வேண்டு[3] in our standard type of sentences, then we can express "wanted". We will soon get to Negative Verbs which will allow us to say "did not want". There is no simple verb to say "enough", however.

## Examples

- அவர்களுக்கு இந்த பாடம் புரியுமா? = "Do they understand this lesson?"
- அவர்களுக்கு அடுத்த பாடங்கள் புரியும் = "They understand the next lessons"
- எனக்கு அந்த திரைப்படத்தை பிடிக்கவில்லை = "I did not like that movie"
- எனக்கு பழைய திரைப்படங்களை பிடிக்கும் = "I like old movies"
- அவளுக்கு ஒரு பரிசு கிடைத்தது = "She received a prize"
- அவளுக்கு நல்ல மதிப்பெண்கள் கிடைத்தன = "She received good grades"
- எங்களிடம் பணம் இல்லை = "We have no money"
- யாருக்காவது இது தெரியுமா? = "Does anyone know this?"
- உங்களுக்கு உணவு போதவில்லை = "The food is not enough for you"

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# Infinitive

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The infinitive is a simple word made out of the verb root. It corresponds well with the English infinitive in translations, which is the word "to" followed by the verb. (Ex: "to fall", "to wash"). It is used very often to help form other expressions and verb forms.

*Infinitive*

The infinitive is formed by

- adding −அ to verbs in Classes 1-4

  (2-syllable short-vowel words ending in an −உ sound drop the final −உ before adding −அ)

- adding −க்க to verbs in Classes 6-7

Ex:

- கழுவ = "to wash"
- விழ = "to fall"
- சொல்ல = "to say"
- பண்ண = "to do"
- ஊற்ற = "to pour"

## *Irregulars*

| *Verb* | *Infinitive* |
|---|---|
| வில்[5] | விற்க |
| கேள்[5] | கேட்க |
| வா[2] | வர |
| தா[2] | தர |
| போ[3] | போக |

## *"Going To ...", Etc.*

In English, we sometimes say "They are going to buy things" or "We went to play". To say "going to", follow the infintive with போ[3]. In addition to

போ[3], this also applies to any other verbs that make sense in its place, such as விடு[4], முயற்சி செய்[1a], விரும்பு[3], and பார்[6].

Although பார்[6] means "see", when it is used here, it means "try". முயற்சி செய்[1a] means "try" as it is, so both verbs mean the same thing here.

Ex:

- அவர்கள் பொருள்களை வாங்க போகிறார்கள் = "They are going to buy things"
- நாங்கள் விளையாட போனோம் = "We went to play"
- அவன் பேருந்தில் ஏற முயற்சி செய்தான், ஆனால் அவனால் ஏற முடியவில்லை = "He tried to get on the bus, but he was not able to get on."

## *Should / Should Not*

*Should / Should Not*

- To indicate "should", use infinitive + வேண்டும்
- To indicate "shouldn't", use infinitive + கூடாது

Ex:

- நான் புறப்பட வேண்டும் = "I should depart"
- நீ பாலில் தண்ணீரை கலக்க கூடாது = "You shouldn't mix water in the milk"

## *Prior Uses Of The Infinitive*

The infinitive has been the basis for some of the rules about negative commands and verbs with அது and அவை. Using the infinitive, the previous rules become:

*Negative Commands*

Commands without respect are formed by replacing the final −அ of the infinitive with −ஆதே. Commands with respect are formed by replacing the final −அ of the infinitive with −ஆதீர்கள்.

*Future Tense Of அது, அவை*

The future tense of அது and அவை is formed by replacing the final −அ of the infinitive with −உம்

## Negative Verbs

Negative verbs are verbs which indicate that an action did not happen. Here, the word "negative" means "opposite", as in "to negate" something. We have seen this before in Negatives / Questions and Negative Commands.

*Past/present Tense Negative Verbs*

To form a negative verb, past or present, use infinitive + வ் + −இல்லை

Since all infinitives end in an அ sound, we automatically know that வ் must be inserted between the verb and −இல்லை.

*Future Tense Negative Verbs*

- For nouns besides அது and அவை, the negative is infinitive + மாட்ட் + verb suffix
- For அது and அவை, replace the final −அ from the infinitive with −ஆது

Ex:

- நான் ஆளை கெடுதலாக பேச விடமாட்டேன் = "I will not let the guy talk badly"

- அந்த சிறப்பான கிணற்றில் தண்ணீர் தீராது = "In that special well, water will not run out"

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## If Statements / Negative If Statements

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If statements (a.k.a. conditionals) refer to sentences that go something like "If some action occurs ...". The negative form of this is something like "If some action doesn't occur ...".

For verbs, the past tense stem is the part of the past tense verb to which the verb ending is added. See Verbs - Past Tense for details.

*If Statements*

To turn a phrase into an if statement, add −ஆல் to the past tense stem of the verb

*Negative If Statements*

To turn a phrase into a negative if statement, replace the final −அ from the infinitive with −ஆவிட்டால்

Ex:

- யாரும் களையை எடுக்காவிட்டால், அது இன்னும் வளரும் = "If no one pulls out the weed, it will still grow"

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## AvP

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In Thamil, there is a special way to describe a series of actions taking place. The final action is written as usual, using whichever verb forms that are appropriate. For each of the actions preceding the final action, the verbs are changed into their AvP (adverbial participle) form.

*AvP*

The AvP of a verb is formed by adding

- −உ to the past tense stem of the verb (classes 1-2, 4-7)
- −இ to the verb (class 3)

Ex:

- அவன் முட்டைகளை வாங்கி சமைத்து தட்டில் போட்டு உனக்கு கொடுக்கிறான் = "He has bought and cooked eggs and has put them on a plate and gives them to you"
- நாங்கள் நகரில் சுற்றி நடந்து வருகிறோம் = "We will walk around in the city and then come"

*Negative AvP*

The negative AvP of a verb is formed by replacing the final −அ from the infinitive with −ஆமல்

For இரு, however, the negative AvP is இல்லாமல்.

## Continuous Tense

The continuous tense for verbs shows that the action occurs continuously (without stopping). Verbs in the continuous tense can also show that the action occurs in the past tense, present tense, or future tense.

The past continuous tense shows that the action was occurring in the past. (Ex: "They have were laughing") The present continuous tense shows the the action is currently occurring and ongoing. (Ex: "They are laughing") The future continous tense shows that the action will be occurring continuously in the future. (Ex: "They will be laughing")

*Continuous Participle*

A verb can be put in the continuous tense by AvP + கொண்டு + இரு[7]

The past, present, or future continuous tense can be formed by putting

இரு[7] into the past, present, or future tense, respectively.

Ex:

- அந்த இரண்டு பாட்டிகளும் அரட்டை அடித்துக்கொண்டிருப்பார்கள் = "Those two grandmothers will be gossiping"
- காகங்கள் காலையில் கரைந்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும் = "Crows will be crowing in the morning"
- பெரிய வீதிகளில் வண்டிகள் போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன = "Vehicles are going in big streets"
- அவர்கள் சிரித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள் = "They were laughing"

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## Quotations & Complex Sentences - என்[5]

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The verb என்[5] is one of the Class 5 Verbs. என்[5] means "say", just like சொல்[3]. In addition, என்[5] can also be used to make complex sentences, as we will see in this lesson.

### Quotations

Quotations are used to restate what other people have said. Direct quotations show exactly what people have said. (Ex: " 'The fisherman departed in the boat', said the child.") Indirect quotations show what people have said, but not necessarily in the exact way that they said it. (Ex: "The child said that the fisherman departed.")

The word என்று, which is also the AvP of என்[5], is placed immediately after the quotation. Traditionally in Thamil, the indirect form of quotations has been used predominantly. In the history of Thamil, the usage of the quotation marks is a relatively recent thing. Thus, direct quotations in Thamil are distinguished mainly by quotation marks, and indirect quotations do not have quotation marks.

Ex:

- "நான் தாமதமாக இருக்கிறேன்" என்று மாணவன் கத்தினான் = " 'I am late!' the student screamed. "
- "மீனவர்கள் கப்பலில் புறப்பட்டார்கள்" என்று சிறுமி சொன்னாள் = " 'The fishermen departed in the boat', said the girl."
- மீனவர்கள் புறப்பட்டார்கள் என்று சிறுமி சொன்னாள் = "The girl said that the fishermen departed."

When restating the speech of another person, the correct tense of என்[5] can be used as an alternative to the "என்று ... சொல்[3]" style of quotations.

Ex:

- "நம்முடைய தோட்டத்தில் வாழை மரங்களும் தென்னை மரங்களும் இருக்கின்றன" என்றான் விவசாயி = " 'Banana trees and coconut trees in our farm,' said the farmer."
- "நம்முடைய தோட்டத்தில் வாழை மரங்களும் தென்னை மரங்களும் இருக்கின்றன" என்று விவசாயி சொன்னான் = " 'Banana trees and coconut trees are in our garden,' the farmer said."
- நம்முடைய தோட்டத்தில் வாழை மரங்களும் தென்னை மரங்களும் இருக்கின்றன என்று விவசாயி சொன்னான் = "The farmer said that banana trees and coconut trees are in our garden."

## *Complex Sentences*

Complex sentences can be formed using என்று to insert new phrases in a way that is similar to how indirect quotations are formed. The phrase is inserted into the sentence and is followed immediately with என்று. In such sentences, the embedded phrase can often be a question.

Translations of the Thamil to English will vary according to the sentence.

Ex:

- வானம் ஏன் நீலமாக இருக்கிறது என்று உனக்கு தெரியுமா?

  = "Do you know why the sky is blue?"

- பெரிய கப்பல்கள் கடலில் எப்படி மிதக்கும் என்று சொல்லுங்கள்

  = "Tell how big ships float in the ocean"

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## Verbal Adjectives

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A verbal adjective is a phrase that acts as an adjective by describing a noun. A verbal adjective, in specific, describes the noun by what the noun does. For example, take the sentence "The elephant sleeps." We can rewrite this as the phrase, "the sleeping elephant". Here, "standing" is a verbal adjective describing the elephant. Taking the sentence "The lion fell", the corresponding phrase would be "the fallen lion", where "fallen" is the verbal adjective.

*Verbal Adjective - Past/Present Tense*

A verbal adjective, followed by the noun which it describes, can be formed by moving the subject of a sentence to the end, and replacing the verb suffix of the verb with −அ

*Verbal Adjective - Future Tense*

A verbal adjective, followed by the noun which it describes, can be formed by moving the subject of a sentence ot the end. The future tense verb is replaced by its infintive, and the infinitive's final −அ is replaced by −உம்

(Note: remember that replacing the final −அ of an infinitive with −உம் gives the same word as the future tense for அது and அவை. This may be a source of confusion. Forgetting this fact might make correct sentences

appear incorrect and vice versa.)

Ex:

- தூங்குகிற யானை = "The sleeping elephant"
- தூங்குகிற யானை நிறைய கடலை பருப்பு சாப்பிட்டது = "The sleeping elephant ate lots of peanuts"
- விழுந்த சிங்கம் = "The fallen lion"
- விழுந்த சிங்கம் சேற்றில் கிடக்கிறது = "The fallen lion lies in the mud"

The translation of the verbal adjectives into English can be done in a systematic way. That is to be expected, though, because translation is not formulaic and English is an irregular language.

Ex:

- கோழிகள் பருப்பு சாப்பிடும் = "The chickens will eat lentis"
- பருப்பு சாப்பிடும் கோழிகள் = "The chickens that will eat lentis"
- பருப்பு சாப்பிடும் கோழிகள் இப்பொழுது இங்கு வருகின்றன = "The chickens that will eat lentils come here now"
- தரையில் உருள்கிற பந்துகள் சிறியதாக இருக்கின்றன = "The balls that roll on the ground are small"
- பேசும் பேச்சாளர்களுக்கு தண்ணீர் வையுங்கள = "Leave water for the orators that will speak"

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## Perfect Tense / விடு

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A verb in the perfect tense shows an action whose completion is definite. The past perfect tense shows an action that had completed before other events that also took place in the past. The present perfect tense shows an action that has just completed, and the future perfect tense shows an action that will be completed in the future.

The following sentences are examples of the past, present, and future

tenses in English for the verb "dance": "She had danced before singing" (past), "She has danced and will sing soon" (present), "She will have danced by the time she sings" (future).

*Perfect Tense*

The perfect tense of a verb is formed by AvP + இரு[7]

By itself, the verb விடு[4] means "leave". When combined with the AvP, it shows certainty or definiteness in the occurrence of an action.

*Verbs - Certainty In Occurrence*

The AvP + விடு[4] shows certainty in the action's occurrence

Because of the certainty that it expresses, AvP + விடு[4] is used for emphasis. The past tense of AvP + விடு[4], in addition to showing definiteness that the action happened, also indicates that the action completed.

Ex:

- நான் செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை வீட்டில் சுத்தம் செய்துவிட்டேன் = "On Tuesday I cleaned inside the house"
- கோதை இரண்டு தடவைகள் ஆடியிருக்கிறாள் = "Kothai has danced two times"
- அவர்கள் நாளை ஆறு மணிக்கு வந்திருப்பார்கள் = "They will have come by 6 o'clock tomorrow"
- அவர் சுவரில் மாட்டியிருந்த படம் நேராக இருக்கிறது = "The picture that she has mounted on the wall is straight"
- அஞ்சல் விரைவாக வந்துவிடவேண்டும் = "The mail must come soon"
- பூனை காகிதத்தை கிழித்துவிட்டது = "The cat tore the paper"

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## Verbal Nouns

Verbal nouns are similar to verbal adjectives, in that they are constructed from phrases. But as the name suggests, verbal nouns turn phrases into nouns.

*Verbal Noun - Past/Present Tense*

A verbal noun is made from a phrase by replacing the verb with past/present tense stem + அது

*Verbal Noun - Future Tense*

For verbs in

- Classes 1-4, replace the verb with verb root + வ் + −அது
- Class 5, replace the verb with future tense stem + ப் + −அது
- Classes 6-7, replace the verb with verb root + ப்ப் + −அது

See the lesson on Class 5 Verbs for reference on Class 5 future tense stems.

Another way of thinking about verbal nouns is this: replace the verb suffix (for nouns besides அது and அவை) with −அது. For அது and அவை in the past and present tense, also replace the verb suffix with −அது.

## Properties Of Verbal Nouns

Verbal nouns can take case suffixes. When taking case suffixes, verbal nouns behave like அது. The final −அது will be replaced with whatever word அது would change to in the same situation. For example, −அது would change to −அதனால் in the instrumental case, and −அதற்கு in the dative case.

- நான் சொன்னவற்றை நீ கேட்டாயா? = "Did you hear the things that I said?"
- சாலை கட்டுவது முடிந்துவிட்டது என்று மக்கள் சொன்னார்கள் = "The people said that the building of the road had finished"

# Reflexive Pronouns / கொள்

## Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are pronouns that refer back in some way to the subject of the same sentence. One way reflexive pronouns can occur in English is by words such as "myself", "yourself", "ourselves", "themselves", etc.

The equivalent of such reflexive words in Thamil, for 1st and 2nd person, is achieved simply by using the corresponding pronoun.

Ex:

- நான் என்னை பற்றி பேசினேன் = "I talked about myself"
- நீங்கள் உங்களை வெறுக்காதீர்கள் = "Don't hate yourself"

There are special reflexive pronouns for 3rd person. They can take case suffixes, and change before doing so.

| Reflexive 3rd Person Prounous | |
|---|---|
| Singular | Plural |
| தான் | தாங்கள் |

| Reflexive 3rd Person Prounous - Changes With Case Suffixes | |
|---|---|
| Singular | Plural |
| தன்– | தங்கள்– |

### கொள்

One of the meanings of கொள்[1] is "hold". But we have already seen கொள்[1] to help express something else. Namely, the AvP of கொள்[1], which is கொண்டு, is used along with இரு[7] to help express the continuous tense. If

we only use கொள்[1], we can form reflexive verbs. Reflexive verbs relate the action back to the subject. Another way of thinking about reflexive verbs is that they show the subject performs the action alone.

*Reflexive Verbs*

A verb can be made reflexive by using AvP + கொள்[1]

Ex:

- மகள் கடிதத்தை எழுதி கொள்கிறாள் = "The daughter wrote the letter herself"
- அவள் அஞ்சல் நிலையத்துக்கு போய் கடிதத்தை அனுப்பி கொண்டாள் = "She went to the post office and mailed the letter herself"

Simultaneous actions can be expressed with கொள்[1] and the continuous tense.

*Simultaneous Action*

For verbs whose actions occur simultaneously, replace all verbs except for the last verb with AvP + கொண்டு

Ex:

- அவர்கள் சிரித்து கொண்டு பாடி கொண்டு வந்தார்கள் = "They came laughing and singing"

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# *Passive Voice / படு*

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## *Passive Voice*

The sentences we have discussed so far, with perhaps the exception of the type of sentences made only with the dative case, are active sentences. They are called active because the subject clearly performs the action of the verb. (E.g. "It runs", "They saw the movie") Passive voice refers to the

use of passive verbs. Passive verbs show action happening to the direct object. However, sentences with passive verbs do not have a subject, or the subject is indirectly expressed. (E.g. "The movie was seen", "They movie was seen by them")

*Passive Voice*

A sentence is put into passive voice by

- replacing the verb with infinitive + படு[4]
- removing the case suffix −ஐ from the direct object
- adding the case suffix −ஆல் to the subject, if it is expressed indirectly

Note that the படு[4] of the passive verb is conjugated (i.e. gets its verb ending) according to the direct object.

Ex:

- அரசியல்வாதிகள் அந்த சட்டத்தை தடுத்தார்கள் = "Politicians blocked that law"
- அந்த சட்டம் தடுக்க பட்டது = "That law was blocked"
- ஓட்டுனர்கள் பேருந்துகளை ஓட்டுகிறார்கள் = "Drivers drive the buses"
- பேருந்துகள் ஓட்டுனர்களால் ஓட்ட படுகின்றன = "The buses were driven by drivers"
- நிறைய பேர் அவனை மதிப்பார்கள் = "Many people will respect him"
- அவன் மதிக்க படுவான் = "He will be respected"

### படு

The verb படு[4] is used on its own to express emotions. The related word படுத்து[3] is used to express the creation of the same emotions.

| *Emotions Expressed With படு[4] / படுத்து[3]* | |
|---|---|
| *Emotion* | *Meaning* |

| | |
|---|---|
| மகிழ்ச்சி | happiness |
| பெருமை | pride |
| வெட்கம் | shyness |
| சிரமம் | hardship |
| அவசரம் | haste, urgency |
| ஐயம் | doubt |
| பொறாமை | jealousy |
| கோபம் | anger |
| அச்சம் | fear |